

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 /024 W

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R 231205Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2447

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 23686

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - FAILURE TO PROSECUTE TRAFFICKERS AND SECURITY
OF STORED NARCOTICS

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL ON MINISTER OF HEALTH AIR CHIEF
MARSHAL THAWI CHUNLASAP TODAY, AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED
AMERICA'S CONTINUING CONCERN OVER DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND
MENTIONED THE SURPRISING RELUCTUANCE OF THE THAI PROSECUTOR
TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST PAK YOK LIN AND CHAN MAN CHING.
THAWI SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE AND HAD READ
ABOUT IT IN THE PAPERS. IT WAS DISGRACEFUL TO LET PEOPLE
LIKE THAT GET AWAY. THE AMBASSADOR SAID POINTEDLY THAT
AT THE VERY LEAST THE RTG SHOULD MAKE SURE THESE INDIVIDUALS
WERE PUT ON A PLANE FOR HONG KONG WHERE THEY WOULD BE
ARRESTED. THAWI AGREED.

2. THE AMBASSADOR THEN SAID THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAD HAD
PROBLEMS WITH SEIZED OPIUM AND HEROIN. INDEED, THE NEW
YORK POLICE HAD LOST A VERY LARGE AMOUNT SOME YEARS AGO.
AS THE MINISTER MIGHT BE AWARE, THERE HAD BEEN A LOT
OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE THAI STOCKPILE OF SEIZED
NARCOTICS.

3. THAWI SAID HE WAS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THIS AFFAIR.
THERE HAD BEEN A LOT OF CONFUSION AND SEVERAL INVESTIGA-
TIONS. HE, THAWI, HAD GIVEN HIS DEPUTY ORDERS TO HAVE
THE STOCKPILE DESTROYED. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DO THESE
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THINGS PUBLICLY IN A WAY THAT WOULD CONVINCE THE SKEPTICS.

SOME YEARS AGO, THERE HAD BEEN SOME OPIUM BURNED IN
CHIANG MAI -- OFFICIALS HAD COME FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES
TO OBSERVE IT AND THE AMERICANS HAD NEVER THOUGHT THE
BURNING WOULD HONESTLY TAKE PLACE. SOMETHING OF THE
SORT SHOULD BE ARRANGED FOR THE BANGKOK STOCKPILE
IN ORDER TO ALLAY THE RUMORS AND FEARS WHICH SURROUNDED
THE QUESTION OF ITS EXISTENCE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HE NEVER REALLY SAID SO, THAW'S
PRESENTATION WAS CLEARLY INTENDED TO LEAVE US WITH THE
IMPRESSION THAT AN AUTO-DA-FE OF HEROIN WAS ABOUT TO BE
LAID ON.
WHITEHOUSE

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